Rozen Maiden™

8

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Rozen Maiden

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8

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Rozen Maiden Vol. 8
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Hinaichigo
Another one of the Rozen Maiden dolls. She is staying with the Sakurada family as Shinku's servant.

Suiseiseki
One of the Rozen Maiden dolls. She came looking for help from Shinku.

Suigintoh
One of the Rozen Maiden dolls like Shinku. She is Shinku's rival.

Souseiseki
One of the Rozen Maiden dolls, twin sister of Suiseiseki.

Canaria
Self-proclaimed "brain" of the Rozen Maiden Dolls. Her master loves making doll clothes to dress her up in.

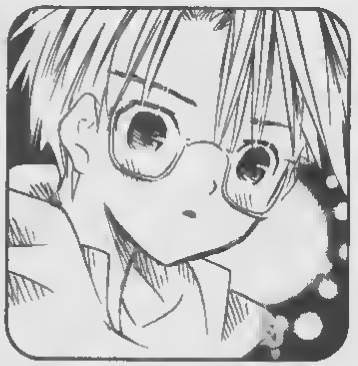
Kirakisho
The seventh and last maiden to show herself. She attacks Shinku and the others with her horrifying powers.

Sakurada Nori
Jun's older sister. Quite a space cadet.

Introduction

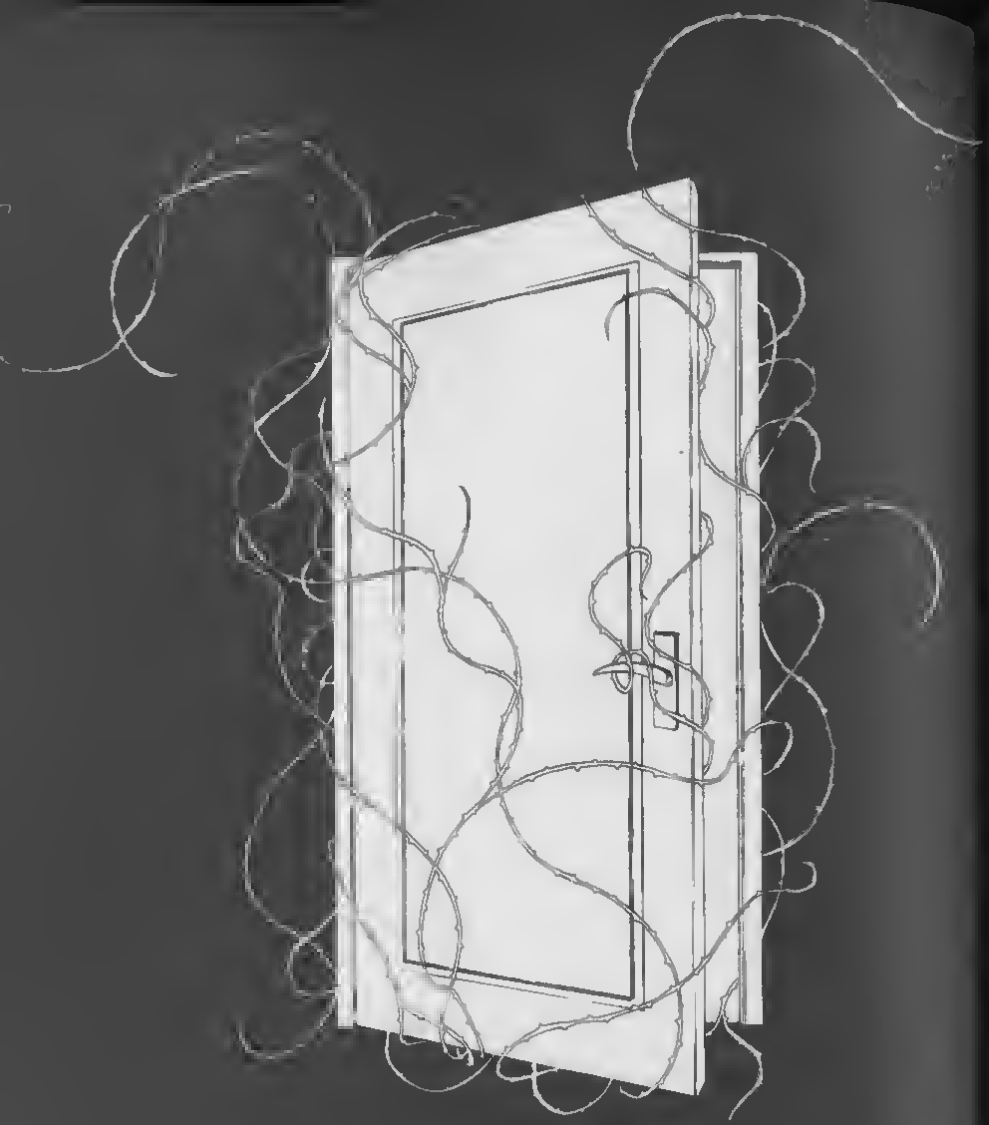
Sakurada Jun is a middle school hikikomori, a student who never leaves his room. His favorite pastime is getting a thrill from returning products he buys online before the "cooling off" period ends. His sister, Nori, is concerned about him, but Jun won't open up to her about what he's feeling. One day, among the items he had ordered online, he found an exquisite antique doll. Bursting with curiosity, Jun wound the key in the back of the doll, which caused the doll to start moving and speaking. It said to Jun, "My name is Shinku. From now on you shall be my servant." Shinku is a living doll, one of the Rozen Maidens. To protect Shinku's Rosa Mystica, Jun gets tangled up in magical and strange battles between the other Rozen Maiden dolls...

Characters



Jun Sakurada
Middle school "hikikomori." By chance, he is Shinku's servant (but technically her master).

Shinku
No. 5 doll of the Rozen Maiden series of dolls with magical powers.



Phase 41

Rozen Maiden

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ガチャ!!

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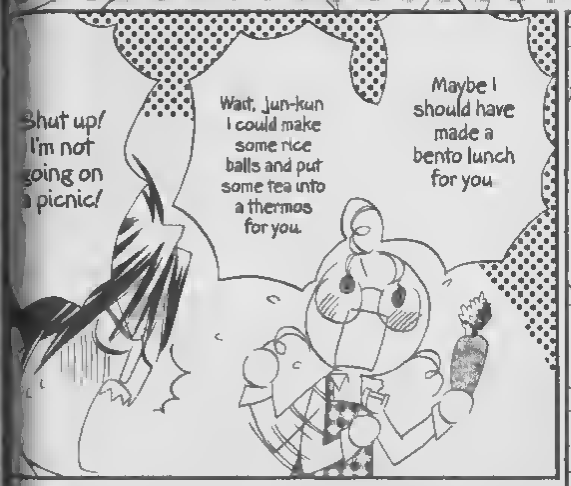
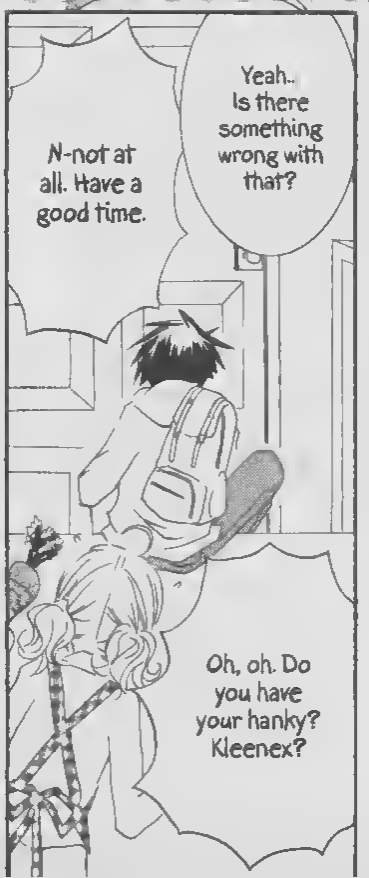
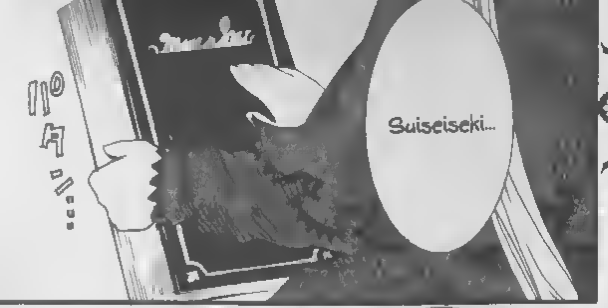
You're going to the library...?
Y--
You're...


Shut up! I'm not going on a picnic!
Wait, Jun-kun I could make some rice balls and put some tea into a thermos for you.
Maybe I should have made a bento lunch for you

Huh?
I won't be alone.
Maybe you should take a whistle or pepper spray or carrots or shiitake or..
Don't stay out too late; you'll be all alone.


N-not at all. Have a good time.
Yeah.. Is there something wrong with that?
Oh, oh. Do you have your hanky? Kleenex?

I know, but...
...
No, you don't understand
He went out because you make so much noise when he's trying to study at home
I'm not talking to you, yes.
Don't worry. I didn't take it seriously.
I take back the stupid part.
That's not...
That's not true...
Stupid Shinku!!
It can't be helped.
Jun opened the heavy door by himself.
All we can do is to watch over him from the other side.
This is how books are read in England.
Pants on fire!
You're sad because he isn't around to pay attention to you, aren't you, Shinku?
Speak for yourself, Shinku. Your book is upside down.
It shows that you're rather upset.
I wonder...
N-no way!
Does it bother you?


Suiseiseki...

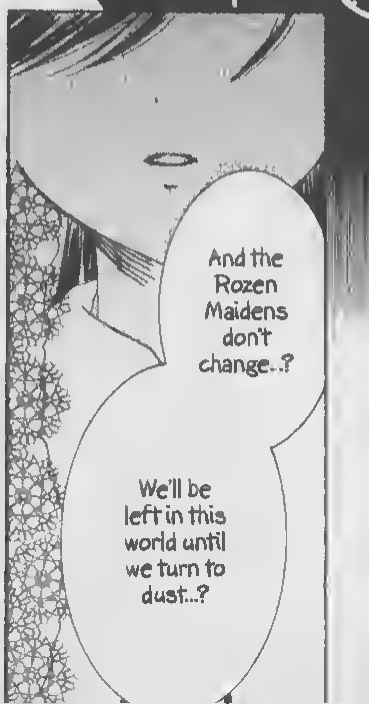
ローゼン...

Rozen Maiden

Being a human is...
Disappeared...?
...so much better!
Suiseiseki...!!

We are dolls and Jun is a human.
No matter how deeply we might be connected, that reality won't change.
He will change as he grows old.
In body and in spirit.
Everything including the world he is able to see

Souseiseki has disappeared There's nothing left of her...!!
Hinaichigo was consumed
No, Shinku. You're wrong. You're idealizing things.


And the Rozen Maidens don't change..?
We'll be left in this world until we turn to dust...?

How about a little break? There are vending machines in the lobby, I think.
Oh... okay.

Oh...
I wonder...
Were you like this before?

It's nothing..
Thanks for the treat

Don't worry This place is far away from our school, so I don't think there's anyone we know here.
Well, I'm not really..
.....

.....

Sign City Library
I thought it was about Hinaichigo for sure
Getting a call— from you, Sakurada-kun.
You surprised me a little
Huh?
Here you go, a copy of the notes.
Thanks.

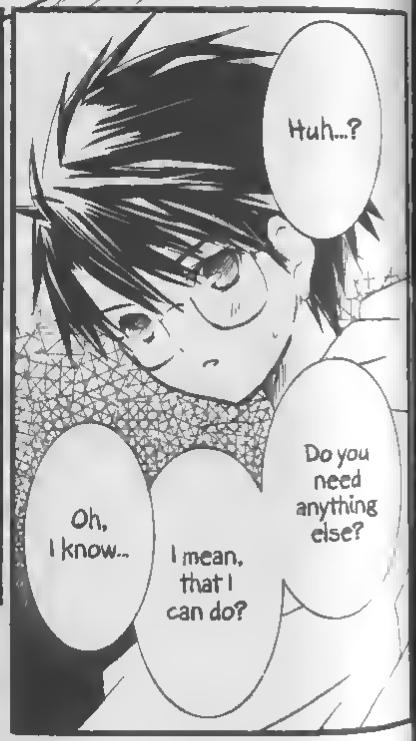
A little...
Am I imposing on you?

Here are the notes from math.
I'm just joking
.....

I couldn't understand just from the books
I also wanted to know how far the class has gotten, and...
...the idiots are always around at home, so...
I see.

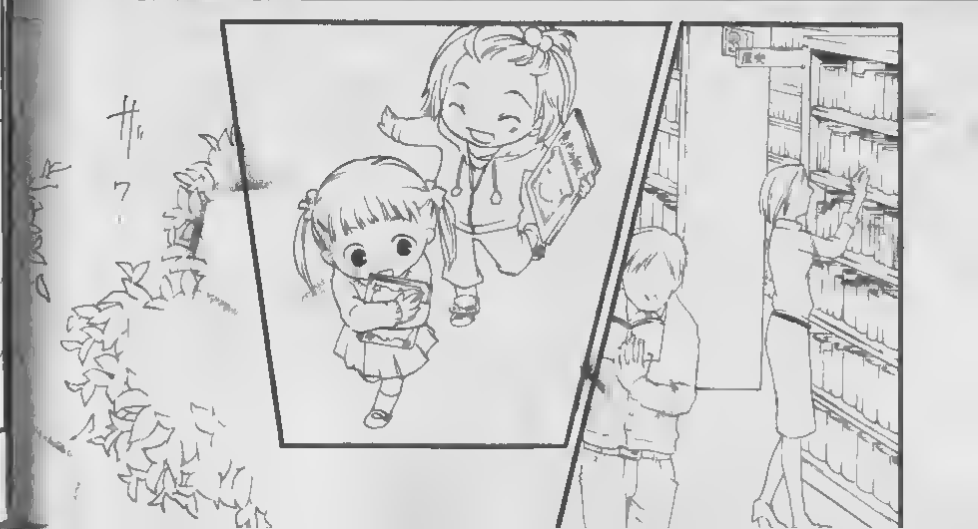
I see...
You were able to open it, Sakurada-kun.
The door...

Well, let's see...
If I can look at the questions from the midterm exams...
Sure. I think I still have them around.
Great.


Huh...?
Do you need anything else?
I mean, that I can do?
Oh, I know...

I was thinking that...
...maybe next term...
...I would back go to school.

Well... I guess I have to get used to things...
...like people...

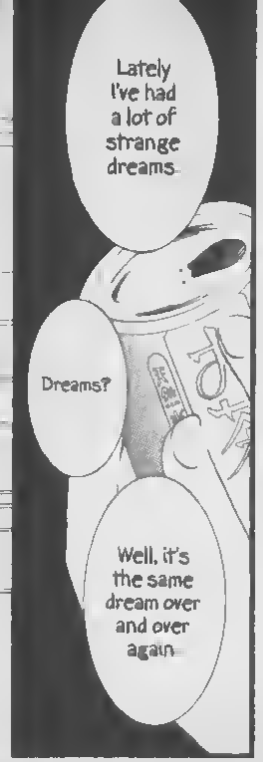


Sakurada-kun, you seem to be staring off...
...and looking far away.

By the way, the exam questions we were talking about before..

Huh?
You're overwhelmed with your own issues...
Have you forgotten about the people that need your help?

Hinaichigo is...
...trying desperately to tell me something from the other side of the crystal...
...but I can't hear what she's saying.


Lately I've had a lot of strange dreams...
Dreams?
Well, it's the same dream over and over again...

No... Come to think of it, nothing.
Have you heard from her lately?
Hina-ichigo?

If there were, that Odile girl would surely contact you.
I don't think there's anything to worry about right now
I don't know how, but...

Look into it? How?
I see...
I'll look into it some-time.

What the heck...
Shoot.
Old man!
Old man!
What is he doing, anyway?
Old man...
I didn't even break your window today.
Open this door now, yes!

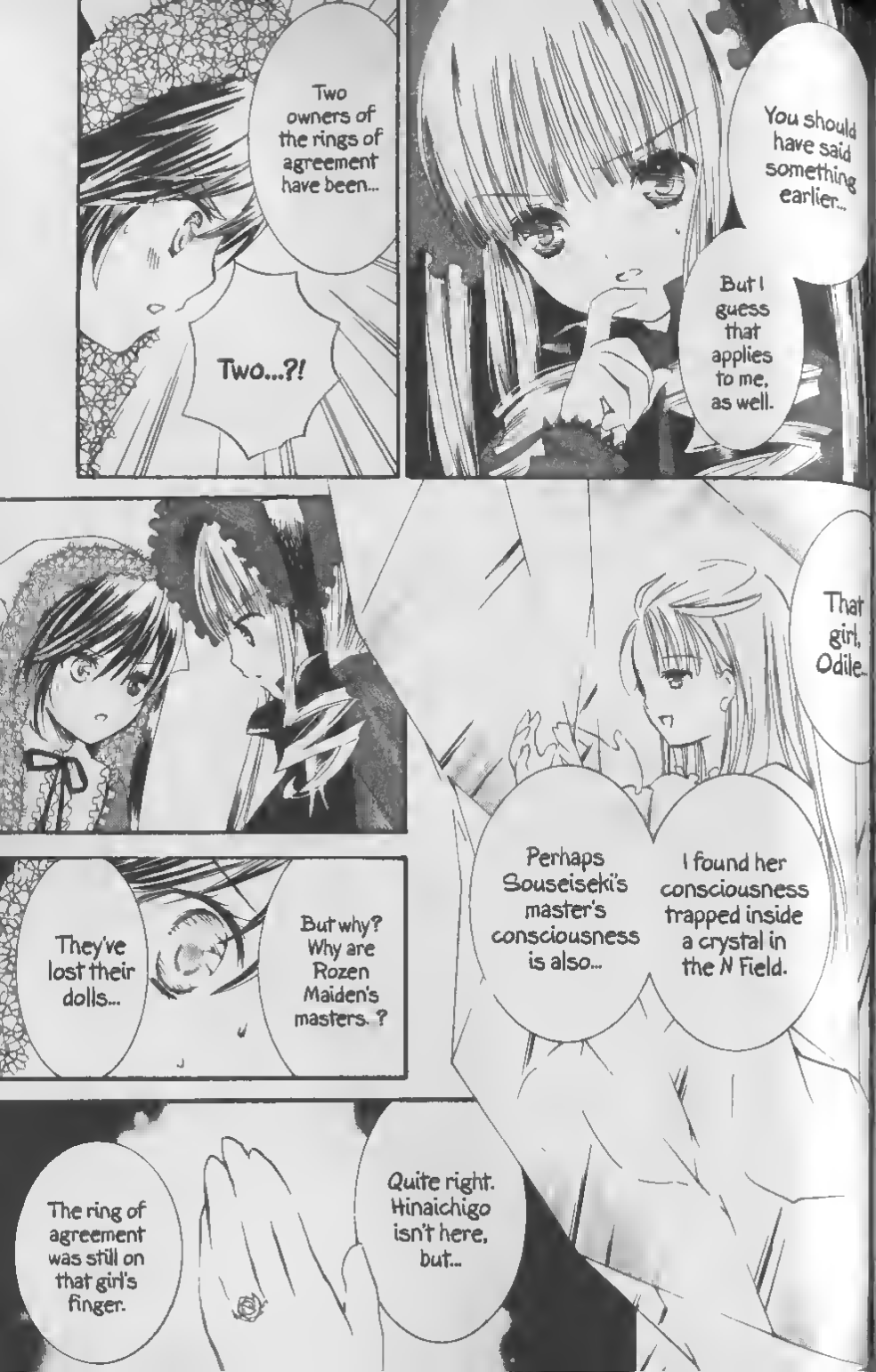
My help...
There's no one that needs my help.
How can I...
...be of help to anybody?
I'll leave the exams in your mailbox.
You don't need to give them back.
Thanks for the snack.

Yes, that's right.
I can't tell Suiseiseki...
...about Odile yet.
She's still upset about Hinaichigo and Jun.
Something's not right Something bothers me
I wonder if I missed something ..?
It'll just make her more anxious.
Something's wrong. It's late in the afternoon...
.....
ばん
ばん
!?
Old maaan!

Phase 42

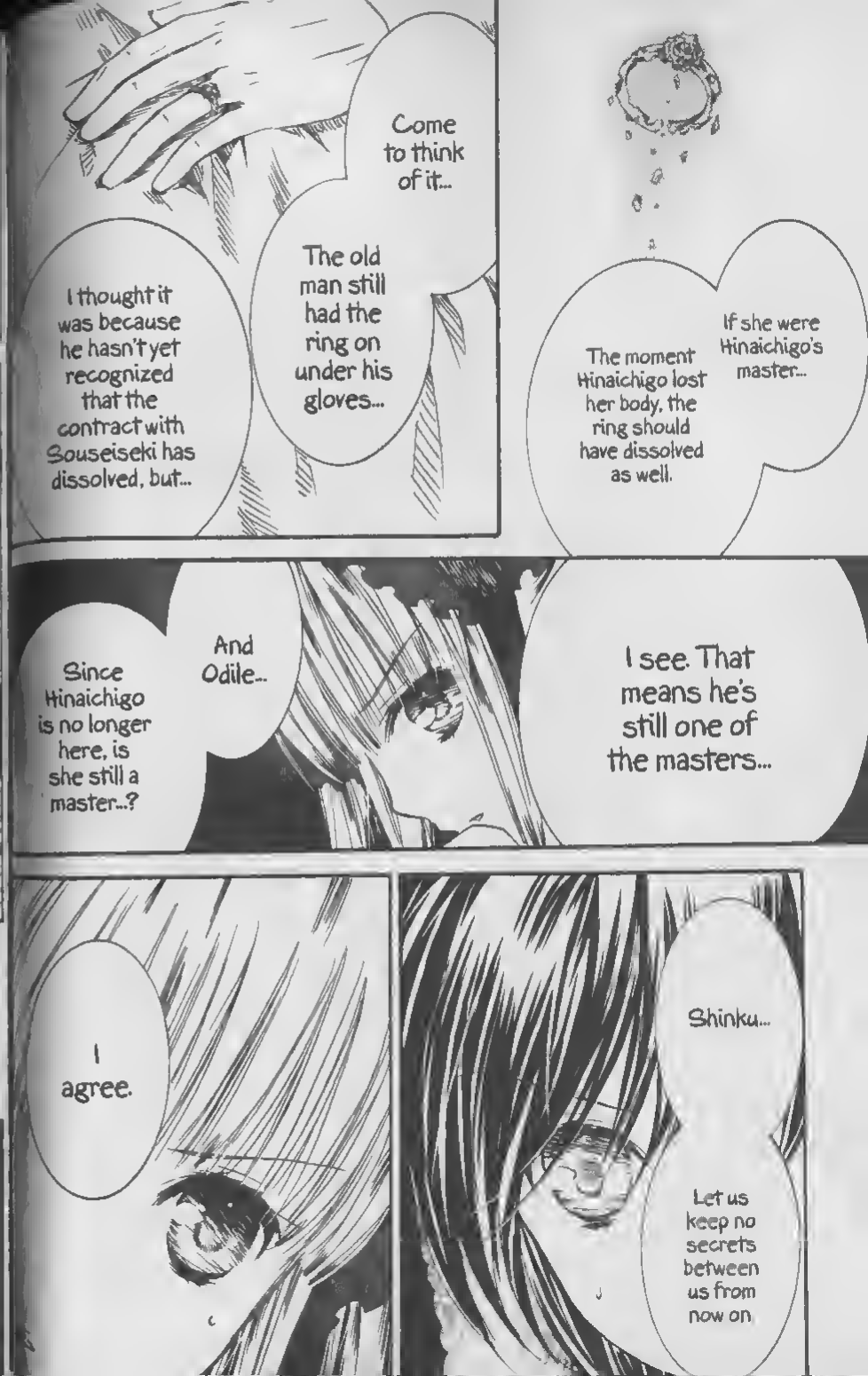
Move...
Dammit... Move!!
Here I'm trying to move forward, and...
Dammit... Why did she have to say that?
...so weird, don't you think?
And he was like...

Damn it!
Who's there?
Show yourself!
Hollier!!
Hyooh
Shinku!
Suiseiseki?!
Me, too...
But why are you in the field?
I came to look for Souseiseki's old man's consciousness...
Oh, I almost panicked. I thought you were that Shirobara.
You mean, Souseiseki's master..
What happened?
He looks like he's sleeping, but he won't wake up
I tried to enter by opening the door to his dreams, but...


Two owners of the rings of agreement have been...
Two...?!
You should have said something earlier...
But I guess that applies to me, as well.
That girl, Odile...
Perhaps Souseiseki's master's consciousness is also...
I found her consciousness trapped inside a crystal in the N Field.
They've lost their dolls...
But why? Why are Rozen Maiden's masters...?
The ring of agreement was still on that girl's finger.
Quite right. Hinaichigo isn't here, but...

So I came to N Field to look for another way in.
...I couldn't.
It was as if the door was locked.
Yesterday..?
I was worried because of what happened yesterday, too...
What?!
First, I found her hat in the N Field...
...but I didn't say anything, since I didn't want to upset anybody.
...gone from the case...
Sousei-seki is... Souseiseki's body is...

Perhaps Odile's doll isn't Hinaichigo but...
I have had some very scary thoughts.
I shall, too.
Then I shall freely speak my mind.
Shirobara...!
...it requires rich soil.
For a rose to bloom beautifully ...
Right on the money, ladies!

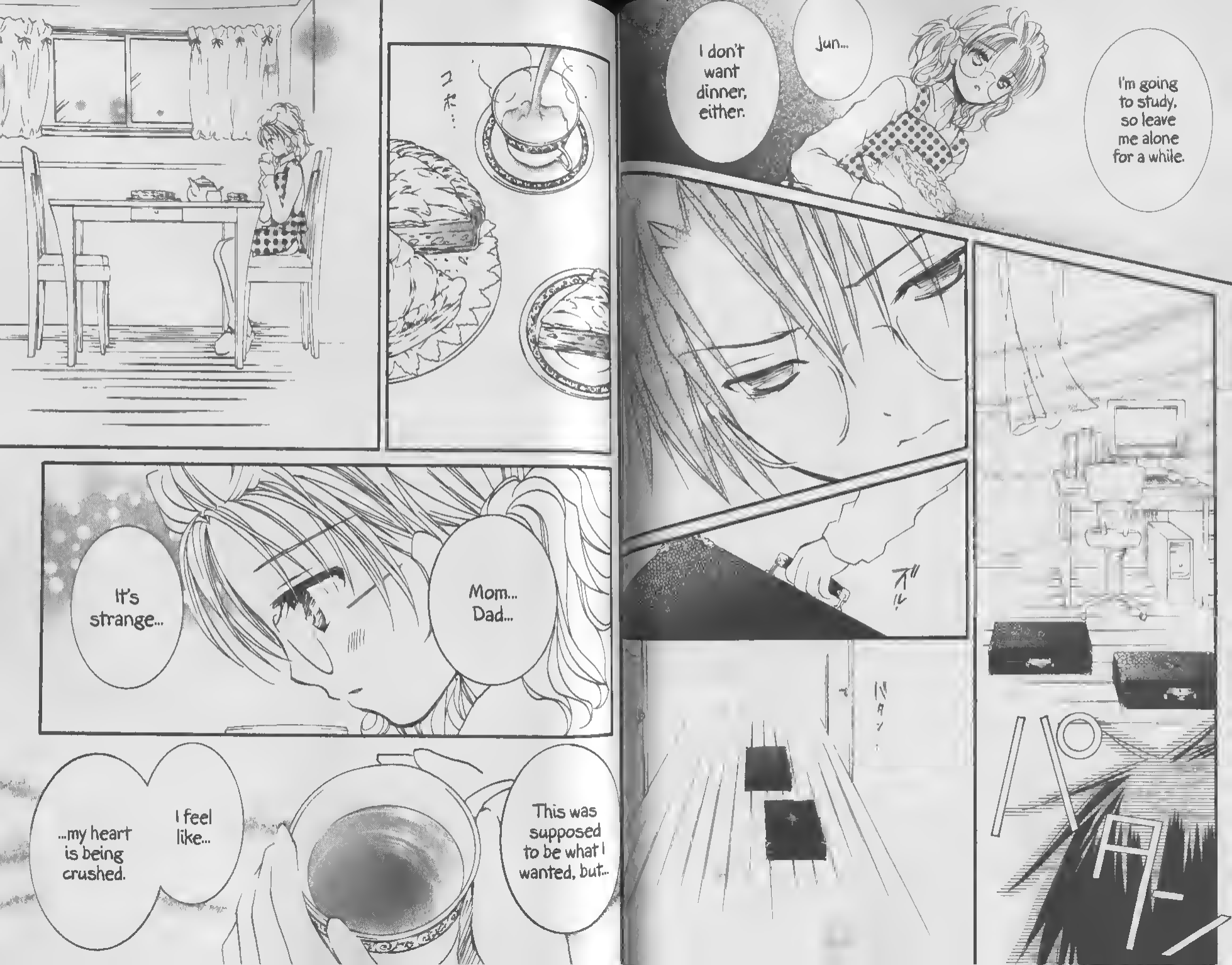

Come to think of it...
The old man still had the ring on under his gloves...
I thought it was because he hasn't yet recognized that the contract with Souseiseki has dissolved, but...
The moment Hinaichigo lost her body, the ring should have dissolved as well.
If she were Hinaichigo's master...
I see. That means he's still one of the masters...
And Odile...
Since Hinaichigo is no longer here, is she still a master...?
I agree.
Shinku...
Let us keep no secrets between us from now on

What she feeds on is...
...Human souls.
The root of her power is not life itself.
And since all the Rozen Maiden's are awake now...
...she has many to choose from.

The Seventh Sister will become more beautiful by...
...increasing the soil and spreading her roots.
It needs soil from which to get its nutrients.
Ooops! That's not the right answer.
The soil. You mean she is sucking up the master's life...?
LaPlace's Demon...!!
...without form or vessel.
The Seventh doll is an astral doll...

Welcome home, Juuun-kuuun!
How was your date, I mean, the library?
Wouldn't you like to have some freshly baked cake with me?
Not interested.
Fine.
How would I know?!!
They seem to go out a lot lately. Do you know, Jun-kun?
I wonder where Shinku-chan and the others are...
Then I'll bring it to your room later.
Shinku, you must return to Jun right now.
We must hurry and find that Shirobara, yes!
I will!
Could it be...
She's after Jun...?!
Be careful.
I know!
I will fly my man-made spirit and let you know when I find that girl.
Bring the medium and we'll all fight together.
Heh heh...
This is what the gods tell us.
Eeny, Meeny, Miny Mo...

Maybe if you started off slowly...
Like going to the nurse or to the office...
Maybe it's too soon?
Jun-kun?
Wh-what?!
Darn. You wait and see. I'll show all of you.
You and everybody else!
I have my own life!
I'm not happy-go-lucky like you, you know!
I'm not their helper!
I-I'm sorry.
Shut up, you good for nothing!
You probably read that kind of thing in a book or something.
I'm not sick, you know!
Sorry I yelled...
There's no need to sneak around!
I'm a student I'll enter the school from the front entrance
I'll go to class, too.
I'm going to school starting next week.
I've decided.


I'm going to study, so leave me alone for a while.
Jun...
I don't want dinner, either.
Mom... Dad...
It's strange...
This was supposed to be what I wanted, but...
I feel like...
...my heart is being crushed.

This quickly...
Ho
?
Jun opened the heavy door himself...
All we can do is watch him from this side...
Jun...
Twenty-seven minutes and four seconds. It's because the rabbit held us up.
I must return quickly...
I didn't realize I would get you involved this quickly.
Jun, be safe...!

Dammit!!

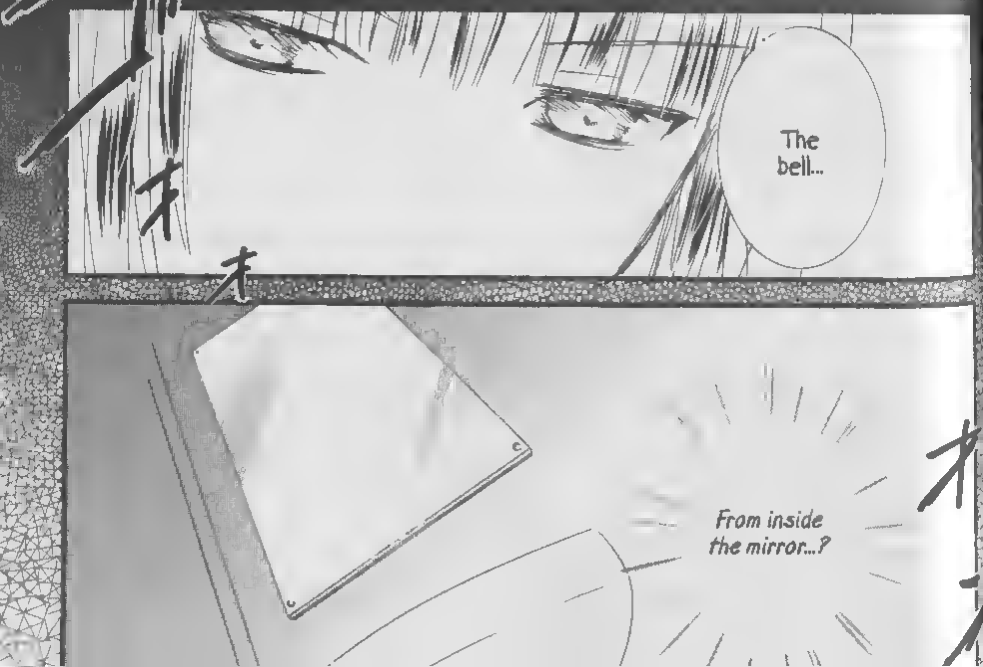
Sweet...
Wait...
...swimming in milk...
This is just like...
Who is it?
Who's there?!
...you have cream...
Stir the milk, and...
Milk-
Dam--
Twinkle stronger, Sweet Dream.
The fog is getting thicker and thicker...
Am I close to the Sea of Unconscious-ness...?
The sound of waves...

...very, very sweet...
Souseiseki...!!
...must really be...
The more you swim...
...the more you get it tangled around your arms and legs...
This voice...
The dream you have while you drown in cream...
It can't be...

.....
Damn...
Poor thing...
Poor little...
...robin.
?!
...robin...?
Who killed that...

Tch...
I should have been more careful. Hollier, tell Suiseiseki...
Um..

Phase 43


The bell...
From inside the mirror...?

It was...
...me.
I was me, you see...
Shiro-bara...!

Megu...
Wait!
Megu...!!
Ku...
Um...

Kirakisho...
This is the bell that marks the appointed time...
I've come to fetch you, big sister Kurobara-sama.

You're stubborn...
Will you not call your medium?
My poor, dear big sister...
You look distressed. You cannot get your energy...
.....
I wonder what your master is doing...
Dammit.
shoot

A bell. Big sister Benibara
Urrr...
What was that sound...?
Ku-
It's almost time.
...the end shall begin.
And...
All will be gathered here...

...Sui-seiseki.
I thought your Rosa Mystica was...
I came to fetch you...
crack
Sou...
Souseiseki..
Why are you here?
This Souseiseki...
What's the matter? Come closer.
...is not right.
It's not right!
See...
Like always.

I've stopped playing the Alice Game.
See...
Sui-seiseki...
So I don't want to be burdened with the ring any more.
I've decided that it's foolish to fight against the Suiseiseki that I love so much.
I don't want my master, or father, or Alice.
All I want is you.
Won't you?
So won't you stay here with me forever...?

Hold me tight...
Souseiseki!!
Souseiseki!
As always, such a crybaby.

Just as you did with the other masters.
Poor big sister...
Urr..
I won't fall into that trap...
...Shirobara.
You're going to make him sleep once you lure him in here.
Why don't you hurry and call your master?
Aaaah...
Is something the matter, I wonder...?
Ah!
It's time to switch guard but no one's here—
I wonder if something happened, Pizzicato—
That's...
...Berrybell?!
Should I follow her, I wonder, Pizzicato!

I, Shinku, shall...
...dissolve the oath of the ring...!!

Jun...

So...

...I feel sorry for.
Actually, you're the one that...
Since you don't have a vessel...
...a tie, or a connection...
...you don't need the thread of life...
Even without the ring, our tie will exist. The trust will survive...
If a true connection exists, there is no need for the ring.
A sorry little creature that was bound by the ring.
Poor little Odile...

I've never liked to fight...
...but...
...I hate pretending not to see even more...
The dream that we will share here together is...
....probably sweet as cream.
Sweet dreams..
...she never ran away.
...stubborn and headstrong and sometimes clinging, but...
The Souseiseki that I love is...

You undid the oath of the ring.
I'm so happy, Suiseiseki...

Souseiseki?!
Don't worry...
Run...
Ah...
Sui...
We'll be fine.
...together!
We'll always be...

Even when you know a storm is coming...
You go forward into it...
...that kind of person.
The Souseiseki that I love is...

Cana-chan...?!
I...
Weren't you all together?
Huh? That what?
Where is that...?!
Where is she...?
What's the matter Spirit-san?
Huh...? What... what's this?
Watch out...

It's already seven o'clock and no one's returned...
It seems too long for a walk in the mirror.
Ping
Maybe I should tell Jun-kun...
No, no, no. I shouldn't bother him when he's studying
But, but...
C-Cana-chan?
Kyaaa!!
Seyaaaah!!

!!!
What the...
What..?
What..?!
The ring..! It's gone?!
NNN...
Jun...
When did I fall asleep?
Huh...?
Jun-kun...
H-Hina-chan is...
urrr
What the...
Nori...?

You don't need to cry, I think.
We...
...don't feel sorry for ourselves.
Nori...
But...
...we live...
We are dolls that were created by our father and had Rosa Mysticas put inside our bodies.
We weren't born out of a mother's womb like you and Jun

I had no idea...
...those little dolls had endured so much...
...with their little bodies.
You saw it, too...?
How could ...
How could it be...?
How could anybody be so horrible to one another?
What is the Alice Game anyway?!
It's cruel. It's too much.
They're being tortured...!
Poor little things...

...to the N Field...
...to get them.
I have to go...
I thought I was..
...facing a hard and torturous fight by myself.
Pretending not to hear the little voices that called me.
Without taking note of the little eyes that watched me...
...to fight...
That is...
...the pride of Rozen Maidens.
I thought I had come out of the box and started to walk...
...by looking at something far away.
I thought I was fighting.
I thought I was living.
To fight is...
...to live, isn't it?

Inside that mirror?!
What is this place...?
Even Suigintoh
Suiseiseki? Souseiseki?!
.....
LaPlace's Demon!!
This is what theatre must be!
Otherwise the audience will get bored.
Bravo!!
Such a touching line.

Jun-kun...
I'm not sure if I'll make it back for dinner...
...and you might have to wait a little for me, but...
So...
Don't worry. I'll bring everybody back.
Will you open it?
Or will you not?

Come now little boy.
It's time to choose.
Shinku!
!
Something is connected with something else..
...and that is the door.
You'll only find out once you open the door.
Is the cat in the box dead or alive...?
Will you see the scene that you've been waiting for on the other side?
...e door in front ...f you, little boy. ...will it connect to light or to darkness...?
As long as there are doors, the world will never cease...
By opening, the world will be born anew and forge new connections.

What do you choose to do?
What say you, little boy?
I choose to...
...open the door!
Jun.
You be careful...
Wait for me.

Oh my. It's already late. I must be leaving now, too...
...lest I'll be too late.
Shall we call the boy who jumped in without knowing what's on the other side brave...
...or foolish ...?
Oh?
Hop
If you find the next door...
...it's only human that you'd want to open it.
Heh heh heh
Good day to you all.
Well, then ladies and gentlemen...
It's sad, isn't it? Fate is spun by the thread and connected by the door of the world.
But a mere rabbit such as myself cannot say much more about that.
Now this puppet theatre...
What is this ending all about?
And what of the boy who's lost the ring..?
What will happen to those poor maidens of roses?
And what will become of that Shirobara ...?

ローゼン メイデン

Rozen Maiden

all produced by
PEACH-PIT
Shibuko Ebara***Banri Sendou

special thanks to
Nao
Tama
Tono
Kinomin
Midori.W
Mai.T
Hitomi.J
Yu.H
Manami.H

...and your reading

Gute Reise

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FROM THE CREATORS of *DearS!*

Rozen Maiden™

Jun Sakurada is a reclusive middle school student that's found himself master to several Rozen Maidens—mysterious living dolls that are in a battle for survival.

Jun has finally started coming out of his shell and is almost ready to go back to school, but as a result, he has turned a blind eye to those who need him most. Meanwhile, the battle for the Rozen Maiden reaches a new high as they cross their youngest sister, the seventh doll Kirakisho. Kirakisho catches Shinku in her deadly web, and only Jun has the ability to save her! Will he do what must be done? Read on as the final volume of *Rozen Maiden* comes to a startling finish!

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